

James said that we are to pray for one another that we may be healed.. “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

Rather than directly rebuking the devil when Stephen was being stoned to death, Stephen prayed for those where being used of the devil to throw stones at him. “And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:60).

After Paul spoke about putting on the armor of God, he spoke about praying for one another. “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Ephesians 6:18-20).

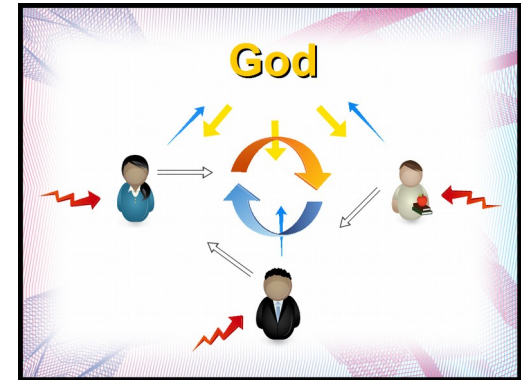
The principle of sowing and reaping may also apply. “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to

you again” (Luke 6:38).

Explanation of arrows:

1. **Red crooked arrow** = the attack of the enemy.
2. **White arrow** = the person seeing the other person under attack by the enemy.
3. **Blue arrow** = prayer for the other person.
4. **Gold arrow** = God’s divine intervention to bring freedom and healing.

Beginning on the left side of the graphic, Mrs. Jones comes under attack by the enemy. However, she also sees Billy coming under attack. Mrs. Jones then prays to God for Billy. Billy who is also under attack by the enemy, looks and sees Mr. Smith being under attack. Therefore, Billy prays to God for Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith who is under attack by the enemy, looks to see that Mrs. Jones is under attack. Therefore, Mr. Smith prays to God for Mrs. Jones. As the cycle is complete, God may intervene to bring freedom and healing in all their lives.



COUNTER SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The spiritual reality is that if you are a believer, then you are in a spiritual war whether or not you even realize it or understand it.

The attack from the enemy may come in any area of our lives: mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and socially. The attack may be directly from the powers of darkness or may come through individuals who reject us, belittle us, abuse us, lie about us, or steal from us.

With the attack of the enemy, there are various temptations to become angry, discouraged, depressed, or even to blatantly disobey one of God’s commandments and be caught in the web of sin (often seen as some addiction).

We should begin by putting on the spiritual armor of God. “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

We may appropriately enter into the battle using the Word of God as Jesus did (Matthew 4:1-11) or we may use the mighty name of Jesus as Paul did when he came under attack by demon possessed girl (Acts 16:16-18).

We may also use thanksgiving and praise to God as effective spiritual weapons. “Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalms 149:6:9).

However, we may be become **so focused** on the battle that we are drawn into battling the enemy with our own knowledge and will power.

The man who tells himself over and over that he is I am not going to look at that woman with lust, most likely will. Whatever, we focus our minds upon becomes enlarged in our minds. If I said to you, “Don’t picture in your mind a miniature pink elephant”, your mind immediately and automatically

pictures a pink elephant. Furthermore, it has been said that one of the best ways to remember something is to try your very hardest to forget it.

Therefore, let us look at another approach of **counter spiritual warfare**.

Some years ago, I was at a pastor’s conference of about 600 pastors, where the teacher was teaching about counter spiritual warfare. The teacher was specifically addressing sexual unfaithfulness of pastors. He recommended that each pastor would keep someone in mind who needed salvation, then when that pastor would be tempted to lust after some woman or tempted to have an affair with the secretary, that the pastor would begin to pray for the lost person that they knew.

This takes the pastor’s focus off the object that he is tempted to lust after and refocuses his attention on God. It also redirects his mission to pray for someone in need of salvation.

Some Scriptural Examples

God permitted Satan to have a limited freedom to attack Job and take away his servants, his possessions, much of his health, and all his family except for his wife.

Then Satan used Job’s wife and his closest friends to verbally attack and condemn Job. However, the more that

Job tried to defend himself by his own righteousness, the deeper he dug himself into the hole of despair.

Elihu the good counselor, waited until Job’s older three friends finished talking and then he addressed the issues of Job in chapters 32 through 37 of Job defending himself based upon his own righteousness. Next, God, Himself, confronted Job out of a whirlwind about Job’s defense of himself.

Finally, when Job saw that his battle was in his **thoughts**, he repented. “Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).

However, it was only when Job got his attention off himself and prayed for his friends, that Job was set free from his own bondage and received double of what he had lost. “And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before” (Job 42:10).